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CONTROVERSY BREWING OVER ANTI- PLO PLEDGES CLERICS, ACADEMICS ON WEST BANK HAVE TO SIGN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- A controversy is brewing in government circles over the intention of the West Bank civil administration to apply the anti-Palestine Liberation Organization pledge requirement to Christian clergymen and women working in the area.

There is also a groundswell of feeling within the academic community against the civil administration's policy of requiring foreign academics at West Bank universities to sign the pledge or leave the country.

Some 200 leading Israeli academics are reported to have signed a petition against the application of the pledge to academics on the West Bank. The petition, which reportedly includes the signatures of some past winners of the prestigious "Israel Prize," was organized according to informed sources, before U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz called on the academic community in Israel and elsewhere last Thursday to take a stand against the pledge requirement. (See separate story from Washington.)

So far, 21 foreign lecturers, mainly at Bir Zeit University and Al Najah University in Nablus, were forced to leave the country when the civil administration refused to extend their work permits because they refused to sign the anti-PLO pledge. More than 100 other foreign academics working in West Bank institutions are likely to be affected when the time comes for them to extend their work permits.

Content Of The Pledge

The pledge reads: "I hereby ... undertake to desist from committing any act or rendering any service which is likely to give assistance or support to the organization called the PLO or to other hostile organizations as defined by law."

Only a handful of visiting academics on the West Bank have signed it. The majority refused on the grounds that it infringes upon academic freedom and freedom of thought. The protest signed by the 200 Israeli academics say the pledge would "turn the university staff into an instrument for achieving political objectives."

Government and Jerusalem municipal circles who especially oppose extending the signing requirement to clerics say this would generate international outrage far greater than the row over the academics. It would inevitably be seen, they contend, as an attempt by Israeli authorities to curtail religious freedoms and upset the delicate religious status quo.

Contention By Civil Administration

The civil administration contends that the pledge is similar to those demanded by the immigration authorities in the U.S. and other Western countries. They stress that academics and clerics are not being singled out for its application. On the contrary, all foreign persons wishing to live and work on the West Bank are required to sign, and

working clerics should not be given favorable "discrimination," civil administration sources argue.

These sources concede that clerics whose sole occupation is divine service will not be required to sign. But those who work in schools, orphanages or hospitals may be. A high source in the civil administration said it was "a mere accident" that no working clergy has yet been required to sign the pledge, instituted three months ago for all foreigners seeking a work permit.

But the same source also said there was "no final decision" as to whether working clerics, or which of them, will be required to sign.

It is still unclear what the ultimate intention of the civil administration is. This lack of clarity seems to reflect an ongoing controversy within the government. Certain key officials outside the West Bank civil administration are known to be pushing hard for a waiver of the pledge signing requirement in the case of all clerics. There were reports today that the Foreign Ministry, in fact, is pushing for a waiver for academics as well.

Possible Causes For The Pledge Requirement

Opponents of the extension to clerics attribute the pledge requirement directly to the acting head of the civil administration, Col. Yigal Kamron, who replaced Menachem Milson in that office after Milson resigned last September. These opponents say Kamron was also responsible for recent unpleasant incidents involving searches made of cars and baggage of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and other top prelates when they crossed into the West Bank from Jordan over the Allenby Bridge. By long-standing custom, senior prelates are exempt from searches.

Under pressure from other government departments Kamron relented and clerics have been informed that such incidents will not be repeated. Nevertheless there is serious unrest in the churches of Jerusalem. Many prelates suspect a new, hostile turn in Israel's policy toward the churches. Some link it to the resentment expressed in Israel over the audience Pope John Paul II granted to PLO chief Yasir Arafat in September.

The unrest has been exacerbated by the ongoing situation of the Armenian Grand Sacristan, Karekin Kazanjian, whose resident's visa was not renewed by the Foreign Ministry. (See separate story.)

CONTROVERSY WITH ARMENIAN CHURCH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- The Israeli government has become embroiled in a controversy with the Armenian Catholic Church here. The difficulties developed when the Interior Ministry refused to renew the visa of Archbishop Karekin Kazanjian, the Grand Sacristan or Chancellor of the church in Jerusalem, and his deportation was rumored to be imminent.

The visa expired a month ago and renewal was denied without explanation. Unofficially, government sources cited "security" as the reason. Kazanjian was reportedly held responsible for the deterioration of relations between the Israeli authorities and the Armenian Church. Until recently, those relations had been far better than with most other churches in the country.

Last Wednesday, Archbishop Serobe Manookian, West European representative of the Armenian Church, came to Jerusalem to intercede on Kazanjian's behalf. He spoke by telephone with Interior Minister Yosef Burg who reportedly assured him that there were no immediate plans to expel Kazanjian. But his visa has not been renewed. The Israeli authorities apparently expected the Archbishop to leave the country voluntarily but he has refused.

Charge Of Blackmail Rejected

Manookian charged, after his conversation with Burg, that the Israeli government was trying to blackmail the Armenian Church by threatening to deport its ranking clergyman. He claimed that during a visit to Israel five months ago, an official on a "secondary level" warned him that Kazanjian's visa would not be renewed unless the church agreed to return his predecessor to Jerusalem, the deposed former Chancellor Shahe Ajamian.

Ajamian, reportedly in trouble with his own church, was considered pro-Israel whereas the newly elected Chancellor, Kazanjian, is allegedly pro-Jordan. Israeli officials in charge of relations with Christian churches in Jerusalem have denied the blackmail charge.

Manookian stressed that the matter is of extreme importance to his church because the Grand Sacristan, like the Patriarch, is elected for life. He is the custodian of Armenian holy places in Jerusalem and the Armenian community worldwide would consider it a breach of the religious status quo in Israel if their Chancellor is not allowed to reside there.

Due Cause Is Cited

Yitzhak Agassi, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said Thursday that the decision not to renew Kazanjian's visa was taken for due cause. He said that a certain standard of behavior is expected from high ranking clergy and those familiar with the case would understand why the government acted as it did. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem backed Agassi's statement. "I am perfectly convinced that the Minister of Interior acted correctly," Kollek said.

Meanwhile, the deposed Ajamian has filed suit against the Armenian Patriarch, Yeshighe Derderian, charging him among other things with signing his name to advertisements in the Jordanian press claiming that Ajamian is an Israeli agent. "Israeli sources have intimated that Kazanjian instigated the advertisement and that was one of the reasons, though not the only one, why Burg decided several weeks ago not to renew the Archbishop's visa."

SHULTZ COMPARES WEST BANK PLEDGE TO U.S. LOYALTY OATHS IN THE '50s

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz' comparison of the pledge non-resident teachers at West Bank universities are being required by Israel to sign with the loyalty oath at some American universities in the 1950s is developing into another major source of contention between Israel and the United States.

"I suppose I speak about it, in part, because I am fundamentally a university man, and the idea of asking people who come to teach and work in a university setting, which is, after all, a setting where we expect to have freedom of thought and to encourage freedom of thought, signing an oath is just not the way to go about it," Shultz said at a press conference last Thursday.

A spokesman for the Israel Embassy here said Friday that "the pledge that aliens seeking a working permit in Judea and Samaria are asked to sign, is certainly not an interference in matters of academic freedom. It is a pledge not to support or to assist the PLO or any other hostile organization. In no way does it interfere with freedom of thought."

Shultz' remarks were made in response to a question on whether U.S. aid for Israel is linked with the Reagan Administration's request that Israel freeze the establishment of settlements on the West Bank.

Not An Aid To Peace Process

After saying there is no such link, Shultz added that "some of the conditions on the West Bank are certainly not a constructive contribution to the peace process," and then he denounced the pledge requirement. The State Department had earlier last week denounced the pledge requirement as harmful to the Reagan Administration's "effort to restore momentum to the peace process." Many of the academics, mostly Jordanian but some American citizens, have refused to sign and are being deported.

When Shultz was asked at his press conference whether the United States could do anything about the pledges, he replied "I think we should speak unequivocally about it." He reminded the reporters of the period of the 1950s when some universities required loyalty oaths.

"Maybe some of you are too young to remember those days but I remember them." He said that people in the intellectual community who lived through it "ought to speak up, including people in the universities in Israel. It is the same problem. It is a problem of freedom of thought."

At the State Department Friday, spokesman John Hughes said Shultz made his remarks the day before because he felt "personally" about academic freedom. During the 1950s Shultz was an economics professor and dean of the graduate school of business at Chicago University.

Cites Abridgement Of Freedoms

"It is his belief, shared by many thoughtful Americans, that requirements for loyalty thoughts and political pledges from educators are an abridgements of academic freedom," Hughes said. He said the United States supports academic freedom everywhere in the world and makes "no apology for that defense. We believe it is a vital tenet of our way of government and we believe that many Israelis and others around the world share our perception."

Hughes also stressed that "the Israeli requirement, whatever its basis in legality or precedent, is, in our view, totally unnecessary from a security standpoint. It has the effect, whether or not intended, of eroding the few Arab institutions remaining on the West Bank. Its impact on the thinking of West Bankers is not helpful to our efforts to expand the peace process."

Statement By Israel Embassy

The Israel Embassy stressed Friday that the State of Israel is known to have established the most liberal military administration ever instituted in any country. "Further, the Arab people living in Judea and Samaria are not required to sign the pledge."

"They enjoy civil liberties to a much larger extent than do the full citizens of any country in the Middle East. The demand that people seeking employment in a foreign country refrain from hostile activities is common to most countries, including Western democracies," a statement by the Embassy explained.

The Embassy statement noted that the U.S. has a law barring temporary visas for persons, including teachers, who are Anarchists, Communists, Nazi war

criminals or groups whose aim is to overthrow a government. This stipulation has been used to exclude professors from East European countries and other Marxists as well as members of the PLO. Hughes rejected this argument.

INQUIRY PANEL TOLD DRAPER KNEW ABOUT MASSACRES AND HAD THE INFORMATION RELAYED TO SHARON
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Bruce Cashdan, the Israeli official in charge of the Foreign Ministry's office in Beirut at the time of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps massacres, told the commission of inquiry today that U.S. special envoy Morris Draper knew of the mass killings on Saturday, September 18 and had urged him to call Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to halt the carnage.

Cashdan said that on Saturday morning he had an "excited" telephone call from Draper to the effect that Christian Phalangist units were committing murder in the camps. According to Cashdan, Draper said there was "disgusting slaughter" and that the Israel Defense Force's presence in west Beirut made it responsible for the welfare of the refugee camp inmates.

Draper told him the Phalangists were butchering men, women and children, adding, "I have an officer counting the bodies at the Gaza Hospital," Cashdan said. He said he immediately relayed Draper's call to Jerusalem for transmission to the Defense Ministry.

Cashdan's testimony was the first before the commission to refer to Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, who remained in the Lebanese capital to oversee the departure of Palestinian and Syrian forces from west Beirut. Cashdan was also the first witness to appear before the panel armed with copious notes and records in connection with the massacres. He was one of the few witnesses to answer each question straightforwardly and not to claim he had forgotten any detail.

Earlier Testimony Contradicted

Another witness today was Lt. Col. Azriel Nevo, Premier Menachem Begin's military secretary, who told the commission he had received no reports from the Foreign Ministry on Friday, September 17 of "irregularities" at the refugee camps.

Nevo contradicted an earlier statement by Hannan Bar-On, Deputy Director of the Foreign Ministry, who said he had passed information to Nevo that Friday night. Nevo said that on Friday, Rosh Hashanah eve, he was not home and could not have received a call from Bar-On. His testimony supported Begin's statement to the commission two weeks ago that he had first learned of the massacre from a BBC broadcast late Saturday, September 18.

Bar-On had testified that he received a report from the American Charge d'Affaires in Beirut of trouble at the hospitals in the refugee camps and of the presence of Israeli soldiers in the streets of west Beirut. He said he had telephoned Nevo about those reports.

COMMISSION RULES OUT SABOTAGE IN COLLAPSE OF ISRAELI HQ IN TYRE, SAYS TRAGEDY CAUSED BY GAS LEAK
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 21, (JTA) -- A Defense Ministry board of inquiry into the collapse of the sev-

en-story building housing the Israeli local headquarters in Tyre has ruled out sabotage as the cause of the disaster in which 89 people were killed, 75 Israelis and 14 Arabs. In addition, 28 Israelis and 28 Arabs were injured. The disaster occurred November 11.

The inquiry panel, headed by Maj. Gen. Meir Zorea, the Defense Ministry's comptroller, and consisting of experts including architects and construction engineers and representatives of the various military services that were housed in the building, presented its findings to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon last Friday. He presented the findings to the Cabinet today.

The commission found no traces of a high explosive blast, and all evidence pointed to an explosion caused by a leak from cooking gas cylinders in one of the first floor rooms. The experts expressed amazement at the low quality of the building materials, the lack of adequate building codes, and the substandard iron and concrete in the building's construction.

The building had originally been four stories high but another three stories had been added later, without proper reinforcement, the commission reported. The building had at one time housed the PLO and had been damaged by Israeli shellings from the sea during the war in Lebanon. The bombardment had apparently weakened the building even further.

The panel recommended that a review be instituted of all storage gas cylinders in buildings housing Israeli soldiers, and that adequate investigations be carried out to determine structural strengths and weakness of Israeli-occupied buildings.

DEFENSE DEPT. GROUP IN ISRAEL TO ASSESS PERFORMANCE OF U.S. WEAPONS USED BY ISRAEL IN LEBANON WAR
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- A high-level U.S. Defense Department delegation arrived here today for discussions with Israeli defense officials on the performance of American weaponry used by the Israeli army and air force in the war in Lebanon.

The five-member group, headed by the Pentagon's assessment director Andrew Marshall, is believed to be interested in the lessons derived from the use of American and Israel-made equipment against Soviet equipped Syrian and Palestinian forces. The latter includes the Soviet T-72 tank, SAM anti-aircraft missiles and MIG-23 and MIG-25 combat aircraft.

The U.S. has been seeking such information for some time but the Israelis have held off, apparently seeking an end to the freeze Washington imposed on the shipment of certain aircraft and cluster bombs to Israel.

Another arrival over the weekend was former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. He will receive an honorary doctorate today from Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba. Haig is scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon during his five-day stay in the country.

He told reporters on his arrival that he was "very, very hopeful" about the prospects of an early withdrawal of Syrian, Israeli and Palestinian forces from Lebanon. "I do not think that Israel desires to stay on in Lebanon one hour longer than is necessary," Haig said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES ISRAEL'S STRATEGIC VALUE TO THE U.S.

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (JTA) — The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) believes that most Americans, including Jews, do not realize the strategic importance of Israel to the national security of the United States.

To remedy this, AIPAC is issuing a series of monographs that will deal with the strategic issue as well as with political and economic topics involved in U.S.-Israel relations. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Steven Rosen, who is editor of the monographs, said that Thomas Dine, AIPAC's executive director, wants to bring the organization into the "vanguard" of the policy issues concerning U.S.-Israel relations.

Rosen, who recently joined AIPAC as director of research and information after four years as a senior analyst at the Rand Corporation, wrote the first monograph, recently published, "The Strategic Value of Israel." In it, he argues for the "prepositioning" of U.S. weapons in Israel in order to protect the Persian Gulf.

If the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on strategic cooperation signed by Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger November 30, 1981 had gone into effect, it would have marked a "watershed" in U.S.-Israeli relations, Rosen told the JTA.

The U.S. suspended the treaty after Israel extended its law into the Golan Heights. Rosen believes the Reagan Administration was ready to restore the MOU last May but was stopped by the Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Cases For Israel As The Realistic Site

The Administration is now considering the establishment of bases for its Rapid Deployment Force and Rosen argues it is necessary to begin pressing the idea of Israel as the only realistic site. He warns that it takes several years to build a base and once it is established it changes the relationship between the U.S. and the host country. If the base is not built in Israel it will also effect the U.S. relationship with Israel "for years to come," he said.

In the AIPAC monograph, Rosen makes a logical case based on cost and time. He stresses that Israel is located midway between the Persian Gulf and Europe. He points out that it would take 77 days to transport a mechanical division from the U.S. to the Persian Gulf at a cost of \$391 million; 27 days from the U.S. base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean at a cost of \$138 million; 22 days from the base the U.S. is seeking in Kenya at a cost of \$124 million; and 14 days from the base being sought in Somalia at a cost of \$76 million. From Israel it would be 11 days at a cost of \$63 million.

Cites Other Advantages

The monograph stresses that Israel has three other advantages — political stability, political reliability since it is part of the free world and that it is an advanced society.

Rosen notes that Oman where the U.S. does have access is in the Persian Gulf, but it is under pressure from the Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, not to allow a U.S. base on its territory. Somalia is politically unstable and faces a threat from neighboring Ethiopia. Rosen points out that Egypt has some of the advantages of Israel. But he says that since Egypt invited the Soviets out, it may do the same for the U.S.

Rosen told the JTA that there are many in the Administration who favor such a move. The MOU provided only for medical supplies to be stationed in Israel, but this was considered a first step on an issue that all could agree. Most important of all, Rosen believes President Reagan favors a close alliance with Israel even if he has lost some personal regard for Premier Menachem Begin.

"The President believes in reliable allies," Rosen said. "Israel is the only country in the Middle East that you can know for sure that it will be with us." Rosen believes that Congress would support such a move, particularly because of the cost factors involved.

The Arab Connection

Rosen rejects the view that while he makes a logical case based on time and money, it is unrealistic to expect the Administration to approve such a move at a time when it is trying to win greater Arab participation in the Mideast negotiations.

He noted that since 1948 every move for increased U.S. relations with Israel, starting with Truman's recognition of the new State, has been preceded by warnings that it would result in worsening relations with the Arabs.

"It is probably even the case the U.S. has had more rather than less influence with the Arabs exactly because it also has had (most of the time) influence with Israel too," he writes in the AIPAC monograph.

"Ironically, Arab opinion already takes it as given that the U.S. is in cahoots with Israel, which Washington supports with considerable economic and military aid. The incremental diplomatic cost of expanded strategic cooperation could, for this very reason, be minimal if the problem were managed intelligently during the transitional period."

But Rosen warned, in his interview, that Israel will not seek such a mutual agreement now because it feels it was badly treated by the suspension of the MOU. The U.S. will have to make the first overture, Rosen stressed.

FALASHA HUNGER STRIKE ENDS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) — A five day hunger strike by representatives of the Falasha community in Israel ended over the weekend in Beersheba, after Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency immigration and absorption department, promised the Falashas the Agency would do its utmost to help Ethiopian Jews immigrate to Israel.

Kotlowitz assured the Falashas, during their two-hour talks, that the government was doing everything it could to save the Jews of Ethiopia and bring them to Israel. "I suggest you demonstrate in front of the Ethiopian Embassy in the U.S. and not in Eretz Yisrael," he said. Following Kotlowitz's visit, the strikers consulted each other and said they were persuaded by his sincerity and decided to end the strike.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — An Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded when assailants in a passing car opened fire on their jeep about one kilometer north of Sidon in Lebanon on Friday. The slain soldier was identified as Karim Ali Amar, 23, of the Druze village of Hurfeish, a number of whose Druze residents have been killed in the Lebanon war. Amar had been called up for reserve duty only three days before his death.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated November 25, Thanksgiving Day, a postal holiday.